

Eng 102 Fall I 2012

Instructor: M. Bogacka

MLA In-Text Citation Guide

1. Citations clearly announce to your readers that you are presenting material from an outside source. In accomplishing this, you avoid the charge of plagiarism.
2. Citations direct your readers to the full documentation provided in your Works Cited page.
3. Citations should provide reference to the specific location of the quotation or information being cited.

The MLA in-text citation

1. The source is introduced by a *signal phrase/introductory phrase*

Model Signal Phrases
The narrator of Kate Chopin's "Desiree's Baby" describes Armand as a "..."
Missie May's yard is described by the narrator as "..."

2. To show that you are using the source's/author's exact words/phrases or sentences, you must enclose them in *quotation marks*.

Examples
The narrator of Kate Chopin's "Desiree's Baby" describes Armand as a "dark, and handsome"
Missie May's yard is described by the narrator as a "mess of homely flowers planted without a plan but blooming cheerily from their helter-skelter places"

1. A.) The cited material is followed by just a *page number in parentheses* if author/authors are identified in the signal phrase.

Examples -Signal phrase with author's name
The narrator of Kate Chopin's "Desiree's Baby" describes Armand as a "dark, and handsome" (1608).

3. B.) The cited material is followed by *author's (authors') name(s) and page number(s) in parentheses* if the author/authors are not identified in the signal phrase.

Examples -Signal phrase without author's name

Missie May's yard is described by the narrator as a "mess of homely flowers planted without a plan but blooming cheerily from their helter-skelter places" (Hurstun 2100).

4. When citing quotations, a commentary should follow to incorporate the cited information into the paper, especially if the quoted passage is four or more lines long; this is also known as the "Sandwich Method."

Sandwich Model with Borrowed Language in Quotation Marks

Signal Phrase→When Mr. Adams tells Old Man Warner that the north village is considering

doing away with the annual lottery, the elderly man says, "Listening to the young folks,

nothing's good enough for them. Next thing you know, they'll be wanting to go back to living in

caves, nobody work anymore, live that way for a while" (Jackson 216). ← **Direct quotation**

with parenthetical citation According to Old Man Warner's the lottery is a traditional ritual,

which younger generations do not understand, and making changes can have a negative impact

on society's well being. ←**Commentary/Explanation**

Common Mistakes

Original Text:

"Listening to the young folks, nothing's good enough for them. Next thing you know, they'll be wanting to go back to living in caves, nobody work anymore, live that way for a while" (Jackson 216).

Dropped Quotation or No Signal Phrase:

When Mr. Adams tells Old Man Warner that the north village is considering doing away with the annual lottery, the elderly man expresses his disagreement. "Listening to the young folks, nothing's good enough for them. Next thing you know, they'll be wanting to go back to living in caves, nobody work anymore, live that way for a while" (Jackson 216).

Plagiarism:

When Mr. Adams tells Old Man Warner that the north village is considering doing away with the annual lottery, the elderly man expresses his disagreement. The old man says that listening to the young folks, nothing's good enough for them. Next thing you know, they'll be wanting to go back to living in caves, nobody work anymore, live that way for a while.

Paraphrasing=rewording original text using one's own words:

Original text: "Listening to the young folks, nothing's good enough for them. Next thing you know, they'll be wanting to go back to living in caves, nobody work anymore, live that way for a while"(Jackson 216).

A.) When Mr. Adams tells Old Man Warner that the north village is considering doing away with the annual lottery, the elderly man expresses his disagreement. The old man says that listening to the juvenile persons, nothing is adequate for them. Subsequently, they'll want to return to residing in caverns, no one will work, exist in such manner for a little bit (Jackson 216).

B.) When Mr. Adams tells Old Man Warner that the north village is considering doing away with the annual lottery, the elderly man expresses his disagreement. The old man says that the common attitude among the younger generations is that they want to create a new way of life, but in the process forget the foundation their forefathers have set down without which progress would be impossible (Jackson 216).

Work Cited

Jackson, Shirley. "The Lottery." *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, Drama and Writing*. 6th compact edition. Eds. X.J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia. New York: Pearson Longman, 2010. 213-218. Print

Formatting Quotations

Short Quotations- quotations that are fewer than 4 typed lines get enclosed within double quotation marks. Also, they are followed by the author's name and specific page citation in parentheses, if the author's name does not appear in the signal phrase. Question marks and exclamation points should appear within the quotation marks if they are a part of the quoted passage but after the parenthetical citation if they are a part of your text.

Long Quotations

Quotations longer than 4 typed lines should be formatted as a block quote, and quotation marks must be omitted. The quotation should start on a new line, with the entire quote indented one

inch from the left margin (hit the TAB key twice). Only indent the first line of the quotation by a half inch if you are citing multiple paragraphs. Your parenthetical citation should come **after** the closing punctuation mark.

Example:

The setting in “The Lottery” is described by the narrator in the following manner:

The morning of June 27th was clear and sunny, with the fresh warmth of a full-summer day; the flowers were blossoming profusely and the grass was richly green. The people of the village began to gather in the square, between the post office and the bank, around ten o’clock...in this village, where there were only about three hundred people, the whole lottery took less than two hours, so it could begin at then o’clock in the morning and still be through in time to allow the villagers to get home for noon dinner. (Jackson 213)

This description creates a stark contrast between the serene warm day and the life in the village.

The imagery of “flowers...blossoming” and “grass...richly green” as well as the date reveal that this is harvest season. Furthermore, the fact that everyone follows a set schedule, suggests that all of the villagers act as a community, whether they are completing their farm work or daily chores.

Adding or Omitting Words in Quotations

-If you **add** a word or words to a quotation, you should put brackets around the words to indicate that they are not part of the original text.

Example:

Tessie Hutchinson accuses Mr. Summers of not giving “[her husband] time enough to take any paper he wanted” (Jackson 218).

-If you **omit** a word or words from a quotation, you should indicate the deleted word or words by using ellipsis marks, which are three periods ... preceded and followed by a space.

Example:

Tessie Hutchinson questions the outcome of the lottery by saying “I think we ought to start over...I tell you it wasn’t fair. You didn’t give him time enough to choose. Everybody saw that” (Jackson 218).

Miscellaneous (*the following is excerpted from the MLA guide available via LaGuardia Community College library website)

1.) Two or more works by the same author are quoted or paraphrased.

Example:

Modern researchers now accept the principle that dreams express "profound aspects of personality" (Foulkes, *Sleep* 184). But investigation has shown that young children's dreams are in general "rather simple and unemotional" (Foulkes, "Dreams" 78).

2.) A work with more than three authors is quoted or paraphrased.

Example:

"The research . . . challenges the notions of 'readiness' that prevailed in education for much of the 20th century" (Whitmore et al. 298).

Works Cited

Whitmore, Kathryn F., et al. "Critical Lessons from the Transactional Perspective on Early Literacy Research." *Journal of Early Childhood Literacy* 4.3 (2004): 291-325. *Sage Journals Online*. Web. 25 Sept. 2008.

3.) A work without an author (listed by title) is quoted or paraphrased.

Example:

A *New York Times* editorial called Ralph Ellison "a writer of universal reach" ("Death").

Works Cited

"Death of a Writer." Editorial. *New York Times* 20 Apr. 1994, late ed.: A18. Print.

4.) A personal interview is quoted or paraphrased.

Example:

In an interview with Stephanie Arkin, I found that she and her friends "feel that teenagers today aren't motivated to *do* anything. They just hang around." (*no parenthetical citation required*)

Or

Most older people seem to "feel that teenagers today aren't motivated to *do* anything. They just hang around" (Arkin).

Works Cited

Arkin, Stephanie. Personal interview. 22 July 2007.

*The following examples are excerpted from www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_o.html

- 5.) Indirect source (source quoted in another source) When a writer's or a speaker's quoted words appear in a source written by someone else, begin the parenthetical citation with the abbreviation "qtd. in."

Example:

According to Richard Retting, "As the comforts of home and the efficiency of the office creep into the automobile, it is becoming increasingly attractive as a work space" (qtd. in Kilgannon A23).

- 6.) Authors with the same last name. If your list of works cited includes works by two or more authors with the same last name, include the author's first name in the signal phrase or first initial in the parentheses.

Example:

Estimates of the number of accidents caused by distracted drivers vary because little evidence is being collected (D. Smith 7).